

Weekly Banner.

BY RANKIN & LEVIN.

FRIDAY, Jan. 31, 1878.

Cot. Lang has been appointed penitentiary commissioner.

It is again said that McMahon, the president of France, will resign.

Mrs. Dr. Mary Walker has been granted a pension of \$20 per month by the federal government.

The senate has passed on Senator Maxey's bill appropriating \$40,000 for military post at El Paso.

In the case involving the title to the Arlington estate, the jury is almost certain to go against the defendant.

Twenty thousand European emigrants are expected to arrive in this country within the next few months.

Minister Washburn will visit Monterey, Saltillo and other cities in northern Mexico, for the benefit of his health.

The troops at Fort Stockton, Texas, were paid off in gold on Saturday last. The last gold payment was made in 1861.

The Waco *Examiner* thinks if all the bills proposed in the legislature pass, we will need no more laws for a hundred years to come.

The United States senate will have printed 30,000 copies of the special report of the department of agriculture on insects affecting cotton plants.

Col. W. W. Lang, chief of the penitentiary, is to be appointed by Gov. Roberts one of the three penitentiary commissioners. The office is a paying one.

An Austin special to the *News* says the opinion gains ground that the revision of our laws, made at a cost of about \$13,000 will not be adopted this session.

The exports from the United States now exceed imports by \$300,000,000 annually. This demonstrates the value of opening up new foreign markets.

The *Taylorville Times* is the latest newspaper venture. It is a five-column patent inside published at Taylorville, Williamson county, by Minor H. Brown & Co.

The senate military committee has reported favorably on Senator Maxey's bill for the purchase of additional ground contiguous to the arsenal at San Antonio.

A party of tramps attempted to wreck a mail train near York, Pa. They then visited the station and abused the passengers. 30 tramps were arrested.

The legislative committee to investigate the Huntsville penitentiary passed through Houston. They will also investigate the new penitentiary buildings at Rusk.

J. D. McLeon, colored, has been appointed government store keeper at Covington, Ky. He is the first negro who ever received an appointment of the kind in the State.

It is claimed by a good many papers that the pension bill lately passed by congress is a huge swindle and that at the lowest estimate \$200,000,000 will be taken from the treasury.

The Round Rock *Headlight* says the establishment of the whipping post will do more to relieve the state of her criminal costs than all other legislation possible on that subject.

Harvard Taylor's first and most celebrated poem was written before he was twelve years of age. As a poet he was not a success; his fame rests exclusively on his prose writings.

The Columbus *Citizen* says considerable improvement is visible in our city and real estate has advanced 15 to 20 per cent. Many old houses are being repaired and some new ones erected.

It is said that when the average school trustee receives his commission, which is handsomely printed on an elephant sheet of paper, that he forthwith proceeds to strut and in one or two instances, negro trustees have been known to strut themselves literally to death.

It is suggested that the whipping post be so amended as to apply exclusively to wife beaters. We would suggest an amendment giving wife beaters a double instead of a single dose.

A horrible affair has just occurred at Leary, Ga. The store of M. Whittkins was burned, he was found lying near the front door, burned to a crisp, pistol in hand and skull crushed.

The Denison *News* reports the death of Dr. McBride, the "king of pain" man. He died recently at Chicago of consumption. The doctor was a noted character and was well known throughout the State.

Gen. Sherman and party arrived at Atlanta on the 29th. Several thousand persons gathered at the depot; they went out of curiosity. There were no cheers nor signs of disapprobation. It was a quiet reception.

Over fifty clergymen have been found guilty of crimes in the United States in the last year. Such is an item that is now going the rounds. Clergymen after all are human; there are black sheep in every flock.

A Washington special to the *News* says Judge Reagan in the democratic caucus spoke strongly of making a direct issue with the money power and corporations, and also for reduction of the tariff. His speech was applauded.

Marshall Jack Wharton, of New Orleans, continues making arrests in various parishes of parties against whom true bills have been found by the United States grand jury. One hundred prisoners are expected in a few days.

The Victoria *Advocate* remarks that Col. Oppenheimer, like the Duke of Buckingham, is still in the field. The meaning of all this is that the colonel is a live business man who knows exactly how to advertise and does it.

The New York *Sun* says the body of A. T. Stewart has been recovered. The sum of \$50,000 was paid cash on delivery, and in accordance with agreement entered into beforehand, no questions were asked. This story may or may not be true.

The teller committee has concluded its investigation at Charleston. Colored democrats testified to the existence of a large number of democrats of their race in Charleston and to assaults made upon them by their own people.

The bill reported for the suppression of tramps is almost identical with the law of New Hampshire. In that state it has been found very effective. The tramp nuisance is one which should be abolished and the proposed bill, it is said, will effectually accomplish the purpose.

Memphis, Tenn., as an incorporated city, has ceased to exist. The legislature has passed a bill repealing the charter of the city and remanding it to the territory of Tennessee. A local government and taxation are provided for.

Advertising in Houston is a sweet business. A grocer had a lot of honey on hand that was not going off readily. He advertised the honey in the *Telegram* and sold 25 pairs the first day the ad appeared. He now believes in advertising.

The Buffalo compass at Houston is a paying institution. It was erected a year ago at a cost of \$30,000. It is estimated that by the 1st of February it will have made money enough to pay for the compass over and above the expenses of running it.

The Austin *Statesman* curtly says:

The Texas papers generally are making very tart comments on the tragedy that occurred here under the very shadow of the Capitol last week.

It occurs to the BANNER that the Texas papers generally are correct in this respect.

A FEW days ago a special through train was sent from San Francisco to New York. It consisted of an engine and six cars and was billed as six cars of silk worms. There wasn't a silk worm on the train, but there was \$18,000,000 in gold bars consigned to the banking house of the Rothschilds.

We have had nearly one month of resumption, but, says the Dallas *Herald*, money is just as hard to get hold of as ever. Wonder if the *Herald* man expected to find money growing on the trees or to pick it up in the streets?

It is much more difficult to find a man in the direct line of the kingdom than it is for a man to find a kingdom. The Coleman *Examiner* thinks this is one of the incentives to murder. With this object in view it suggests that the legislature pass a law to prevent convicted murderers from always and invariably professing religion and going straight to heaven from the gallows.

The bill to restrict the immigration of Chinese passed the house by a vote of 155 to 72. It makes it a misdemeanor punishable by fine and imprisonment for the master of any vessel to take on board a Chinese or any foreign port, more than fifteen Chinese passengers with intent to bring them to the United States. The act takes effect July 1, 1879.

A PORTRAIT of Davy Crockett has been painted by a New York artist and sent to the capitol at Austin. A correspondent of the *San Antonio Express* says it does not bear any resemblance to the original, and were the complexion of a different color it would readily pass for a "big injun." The picture was painted on speculation and sent to Austin for sale.

THE ROAD LAW is fearfully and wonderfully made. The Columbus *Citizen* man isn't 45. He and his combs have been ordered out. He soliloquizes as follows: * * * Printers make excellent road workers, speaking in a Pickwickian sense. By the way, why is it the law forces municipal citizens to work the road in the country and the streets in town? Is there any "uniform taxation" about this?

THE DENISON *News* tells of a brutal and bloody murder committed in the beautiful Indian Territory on the Canadian river. A man and woman, Indians, lived in a cabin on the river some 25 miles from the M., K. & T. railroad. A man who rode up to the house found the body of the woman sitting in an old rocking-chair, minus her head. The head had been chopped off with an axe and put in a wash pot.

THE FAIRFIELD *Recorder* learns from two gentlemen who went to Alabama and Georgia to get hands that both states have passed laws requiring every person who solicits people to emigrate to pay a license of \$100 in each county they solicit in. The consequence was they met with poor success. One succeeded in getting several white families in Alabama; the other went to South Carolina and brought on a lot of colored people.

THE *San Antonio Express* says Gov. Roberts could afford considerable relief to the excited minds of a considerable number of people in Western Texas by issuing his proclamation ordering a special election to fill the vacant seat in congress. A great many reputable gentlemen have their eyes turned toward the national capital and much valuable time would be saved by a speedy election. A good many are to be disappointed and the sooner they know their fate the better it will be for all concerned.

A WACO *Telephone* reporter has just paid a visit to the Waco cotton factory. He found it in full blast and the machinery working smoothly. Two thousand spindles are now in operation and twenty-two hands find constant employment within its walls. At present work is confined exclusively to the manufacture of seamless bags and about 900 are turned out daily. If the bags weigh one pound each, over two bales of cotton are consumed daily. Waco's cotton mill is certainly a big thing for that city. Brenham should have one or more cotton factories; we have an abundant supply of cotton and everything needed to make them profitable.

In Lampasas Ira Johnson, colored, stole a pocket knife, worth perhaps six-bits. He was arrested and tried in the county court. His punishment was assessed at one day's imprisonment in the county jail and a fine of \$10. His trial and conviction probably cost the county \$25, and in addition to this he may have been confined in jail for several months at an expense of 40 cents a day to honest tax payers. The \$10 fine he is probably unable to pay and it will be necessary to keep him in jail another month or hire him out as a county convict and let him run away. The law in this respect is very defective.

A STEAMER has just arrived at New York from Brazil bringing 100 destitute American citizens from Para. They had come down the Amazon from where they had been building a bridge. At 125 yet the streets?

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A FALSE MOTTO.

"Retrenchment and reform" is the watch word in both houses of the legislature. Every member, it is said, is anxious to secure a record of this kind to parade before his constituents. Many of our readers, says the *Marshall Herald*, will regard this a favorable omen; but we do not. Experience has shown that such legislatures have invariably proved failures.

It is said that never before was there before such a scramble for office; there were no less than nine candidates for chairman. Nearly every one of them had friends who made speeches in behalf of their favorite. It is estimated that the house spent \$400 of the public money in the election of a chaplain whose salary is \$5 per day.

The legislature has now been in session two weeks, and nothing of any importance has been done; there has been no legislation of any public importance. Nearly every member has a pet hobby supplemented by a bill of some kind. The list of bills presented, named simply by their caption, already makes a formidable showing. It is barely probable that one-tenth of them will ever become laws. In the meanwhile public business is neglected and the time of the committees is spent in useless labor. It is to be hoped that in a few days all the members will have succeeded in introducing their various schemes, and that the actual work of the session will begin in earnest.

Retrenchment and reform is a very good motto, but there is such a thing as saving at the spigot while the bung is leaking. Simply cutting down a few salaries and perhaps impairing the efficiency of the service rendered is neither retrenchment nor reform, but accomplishes just the opposite of what is perhaps honestly intended as a move in the right direction. In some instances no doubt the salaries and fees of officers are extravagant and should be curtailed.

Reading Room.

The Bryan *Pilot* contain a long communication setting forth the necessity of a public library. The probability is that a majority of the people fully agree with the writer and this is the end of the matter. About eighteen months ago Brenham took the public library fever and went so far as to establish a reading room; it was duly opened and appropriately written up in the BANNER at the time. Having succeeded in establishing a public reading room the interest in it began to wane. There were a few books and a considerable number of superannuated newspapers and old magazines; the room was regularly kept open of evenings, for several months, but for some reason readers did not come and after awhile the public reading room was closed and is now well nigh forgotten. Its failure is not due to want of enterprise on the part of the founders, but to the apathy of the people themselves; the boys and young men for whose benefit it was chiefly intended found more pleasure and a more congenial occupation in loafing on the street corners or in playing billiards, pool and pigeon-hole, than in reading, unless they got hold of a police gazette or some "moral" book of a similar character. The real trouble is in the education of the boys. We do not despair of yet having a public library.

GOV. ROBERTS has sent a message to the legislature in which he presents in a forcible manner the present condition of the State's finances. The outlook is by no means favorable; only by the most rigid economy can the revenues be made to meet the expenses; he does not propose to increase taxation, but to reduce expenses. The penitentiary at Rusk is finished but cannot be used without being put in order. It may be let out to lessees without additional expense. Present requirements, including legislative expenses, cannot be promptly met unless some way of accelerating payment of taxes is provided. He announces a deficiency of \$300,000 and recommends that the school lands be sold in tracts of 640 acres by an agent of his own appointing, for school purposes and that the school tax raised on property be devoted to general expenses.

A BILL has been introduced in the Pennsylvania legislature for the abolition of capital punishment and the substitution thereof of solitary confinement for life at hard labor. As between the two, many criminals would prefer hanging.

The shooting and killing of the sheriff of Palo Pinto county at Austin on the 23d inst. is much commented upon by the press of the state. Both men were peace officers and were away from home on civil business, yet both men were armed in defiance of the law they had sworn to support. This case alone should be sufficient to cause the legislature to pass a most stringent law against the carrying of deadly weapons. Officers should not be allowed to carry arms unless on active duty.

COUNTY SCRIP.

At present, county scrip is slow sale at 75 to 80 cents on the dollar, and strange as it may seem the learned county commissioners of the old court made an order allowing the county collector to receive but twenty-five per cent. of the county ad valorem taxes in scrip. As there is no money in the treasury with which to redeem it, and it is only receivable for taxes in limited amounts, as a matter of course it is at a heavy discount and must inevitably continue to be so until it is made receivable for taxes, or there is money in the treasury to pay it. As long as scrip is depreciated the county will be compelled to pay from 25 to 33 per cent. more for all her purchases and contracts in order to equalize the price. In other words parties furnishing the county anything are compelled to overcharge in order to obtain the value of the articles furnished or labor done.

County collector Harvin informs the BANNER that, in his opinion, if scrip was receivable for all the county tax it could all be redeemed in less than a year, after which time, if not issued too freely it would be worth dollar for dollar. The county commissioners have not published a statement of the county finances since last year, and until a full statement is published no one can know exactly what condition the county is in financially. The statement should be full and complete, showing the amount expended for jurors, keeping prisoners, lunatics and paupers and the amount of scrip issued for the support of paupers out of the jail together with other items of general interest to the tax payers who like to know what becomes of their money.

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Legislative.

Senate, Jan. 27.—A number of committee reports were received.

Favorably on bill to change jurisdiction of county courts and conform jurisdiction of district courts to such change.

Favorably on bill to suppress tramps.

Recommended that bill to regulate fees of collectors be referred to finance committee.

Message from the house announcing passage of a bill to defray contingent expenses of sixteenth legislature.

Recommended passage of bill to authorize special tax in counties where it may be necessary to construct courthouses and jails.

Joint committee recommended to investigate the asylums.

A number of bills and resolutions were referred.

House.—Among the bills and resolutions offered are:

By Mr. Guy: Amending the fence law.

By Mr. Sledge: Radically changing the road law.

By Mr. Polly, (of Wilson): To require elections for district attorneys for every judicial district in the State.

The usual routine business was gone through with.

Senate, Jan. 28.—The governor in a message recommends a supreme court of nine judges; that district attorneys be appointed by the governor and that county courts be divested of all business except probate, etc.

The proper committees reported resolution providing for printing 100 copies of the act regulating railroads.

Resolution that committee on military affairs report a bill substituting a smaller force for the frontier battalion.

Message from the governor nominating T. J. Goree for superintendent of the penitentiary. Bill to secure railway employees their pay, etc., passed under suspension of the rules.

Mr. Terrell, by consent, offered the memorial of Durant and Merrick asking relief as counsel for the state in the bond case.

House.—The question of employing four committee clerks was discussed for an hour and half when the resolution was adopted.

Mr. Estes: to repeal the law branching the supreme court.

Mr. Gaither: to recognize barbed wire fences as lawful.

Mr. Sledge: providing a court to try criminal cases in each county to remain open all the time.

By Smith, of Harris: To constitute offices of assessors, collectors, sheriffs, treasurers, and county and district clerks salaried offices, the county courts to fix salaries and placing limits.

Further time was asked to consider a bill regulating railroads.

The yellow fever joint resolution of Mr. Bryan has passed both houses.

Senate, Jan. 29.—The committee reported favorably on bill authorizing county judges to solemnize marriages.

Favorably on bill allowing counties to levy a tax for building courthouses and jails.

Favorably on bill to provide for appropriation of public land to build a new state-house.

Reported substitute for bill to make bail bonds liens on real estate of securities on bonds.

By Mr. Stewart: Bill to provide for disposal of public free school lands, and to secure proceeds for benefit of said schools.

The question whether 300 or 1000 copies of the governors message be printed was discussed, consuming time enough to have paid for several thousand.

It was finally agreed that 1000 be printed.

House.—Petition asking for exemption of feed and livery stables from occupation tax.

By Mr. Gaither: Petition with bill. The petition comes from the state garage; the bill appropriates \$20,000 to provide for instruction in agricultural and mechanical sciences at Bryan college.

Unfavorable reports were made on a number of bills, among them the amendment to law regulating carrying of concealed weapons. Favorably on bill to require service of courts published in county papers, and bill permitting parties in criminal cases to testify in their cases.

Committee on roads and bridges, reported adversely on bill amending road law.

Bill repealing the dog tax passed.

Bill amending law so as to strike out exemption from taxation of notes given for lands was passed.

STATE NEWS.

—The Dago band is in Round Rock.

—In Williamson county wheat and oats are looking well.

—Colorado county planters are busy getting ready for the next crop.

—Pneumonia of a malignant type is prevalent in portions of Polk county.

—Andrew Vincent committed suicide in San Antonio by shooting himself.

—Bremont's narrow gauge railroad is now creating a great stir in Polk county.

—A colored citizen of Denison is known as the proprietor of the "jacksass team."

—Mike Coen, a railroader, was run over and killed in the Central yards at Dallas.

—A Columbus tobacconist advertises the celebrated "Humb" cigar. Perhaps the ad. is truthful.

—Peterson's store at Coke, McLennan county, was burglarized and robbed, on the 24th of \$200 worth of goods.

—A young man named Hal-laman was found murdered at Seguin. His skull had been fractured with a pick handle.

—Judge L. W. Moore is expected in Bellville sometime during the present week to hear the Scurry Foster habeas corpus case.

—Livingston, Polk county is soon to be a city. Bremont's narrow gauge railway and the Polk county *Banner* is to bring about this result.

—In Llano county everybody is "busted" or very "hard up" and no relief is promised unless the mines turn out something before long.

—A fifteen-year old horse thief from Williamson county has just been captured by a deputy sheriff of Williamson in Fort Bend county.

—A man named John Lary, a farmer living near Hallville was assassinated a few days ago. He was shot in the breast with a shotgun and instantly killed.

—A Kansas City stock dealer has arrived at Denison with 40 horses to replace those killed by the smash-up at Burton. The horses will be shipped to San Antonio.

—Williamsburg, Throckmorton county, is a new town situated about 100 miles west of Fort Worth. It is at present a "paper" town existing chiefly on a magnificent plat.

—The mayor of Belton taxes the doughty warriors, who fight under the banner of king Alcohol, the sum of \$5 and the trimmings for uttering the battle cry or yelping.

—Gambling in Round Rock is now about suppressed and if done at all, it is done on the sly. The mayor had a lot of "the boys" up and they have been very shy since.

—The Richmond *Four Counties* says there is signs of day breaking in Fort Bend county. Lands are being sought after and immigrants are beginning to come into the county.

—A Scotch colony has been started in Atascosa county. Several Scotchmen have bought land and propose going extensively into the dairy business and manufacture of cheese.

—Dr. Wm. Perry, who practiced medicine in Texas when the Indians were roaming over Freestone county, died at his home in that county on the 14th inst. He was nearly 100 years old.

—In Dallas a wheat wagon was driven by a booby. The booby allowed his wagon to collide with a doctor's buggy; the buggy was much damaged and the doctor was spilled on the ground.

—Bell county's county court has purchased the Bob Turner farm, in Tennessee Valley, to be used as a poor farm; the price paid was \$1450. Part of the land has been rented out at \$4 per acre, cash.

—They had a breeze at Lockhart, Caldwell county, on Sunday last. Thirty-nine buildings were blown down and damaged. The Houston house and Presbyterian church were completely blown down; the court house, Masonic hall and Methodist church were badly damaged. A child of Mr. Woodruff's was killed and several persons badly hurt.

—Embrey Cannon has been arrested in Wood county, charged with having procured the murder of sheriff Stark, Rock-wall county. Garner who was convicted to be hung June 15 1877, in company with his wife committed suicide on the night previous to the execution. His wife smuggled morphine into the cell and both were found dead. Garner left a written confession stating that he had been by E. Cannon, lured to do the deed.

—Detective Jack Duncan has just succeeded in arresting Mitch Cotton in Rusk county. Cotton is a negro who was an officer under the Davis reign. He is charged with the murder of Applewhite, at Groesbeck, about 8 years ago. There were rewards amounting to \$2,000 offered for his arrest, but he had succeeded in keeping out of the way.

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